

Third, this is a balanced budget that provides modest tax relief to the middle class, helping families to raise their children, buy and sell a home, save for their retirement with expanded IRA's, and send their children to college. We fought very hard to make sure this tax cut helped a wide range of middle class parents, all those who are working hard to raise their children, pay their taxes, and be good citizens, and the agreement does just that.

Fourth, this is a balanced budget that will help us finish the job of welfare reform, providing \$3 billion to move welfare recipients to private sector jobs, keeping our promise made last year to provide \$12 billion to restore disability and health benefits for 350,000 legal immigrants. And, as the Vice President will describe, it will double the number of empowerment zones to bring the spark of private enterprise to our hardest pressed neighborhoods.

Finally, this is a balanced budget that honors our commitment to our parents by extending the Medicare Trust Fund for a decade and to the next generation by continuing our commitment to the environment to protect our air, our land, our water, to clean up the worst toxic waste sites in the Nation. And we achieve all these goals while eliminating the budget deficit by 2002. We are determined never again to repeat the mistakes of the past, when we mortgaged our economy to reckless policies. This budget reforms and cuts yesterday's Government so that we can help provide our people the means to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

Let me thank the negotiators for the administration who did a superb job, all the Democratic lawmakers here and, indeed, all of the Members of Congress who worked hard on this legislation. I also want to say a special word of appreciation to Senator Lott and Speaker Gingrich, to Senator Domenici and Congressman Kasich, and

to their committee chairs who worked with us across the lines of substantial philosophical and practical differences to reach a good-faith agreement that is an honorable and principled compromise. And especially let me thank Senators Daschle and Lautenberg, Congressman Spratt, and Congressman Rangel for their leadership.

This agreement is a monument to the efforts that people of good will can make when they put aside partisan interests to work together for the common good and our common future. It reflects the values and aspirations of all Americans, and I hope and expect it will marshal strong majorities of both parties in both Houses.

This summer we had an historic opportunity to strengthen America for the 21st century, and we have seized it. Now our Nation can move forward stronger, more vibrant, more united than ever. For that, I am profoundly grateful.

Now I'd like to ask the Vice President to come forward, and let me thank you all again for this great, great day.

[At this point, the Vice President and congressional leaders made brief remarks.]

The President. Wait, wait. We forgot to say one thing. We still have to pass this agreement. [Laughter] And so, tomorrow, the next day—and I hope it will be over by then—all of us who are for it, in both parties, have a solemn obligation to go out there and try to keep moving and keep this spirit alive and actually pass it. We are celebrating an agreement. We still have to celebrate the passage of the bill and then the signing of the bill, and I look forward to being here for that with all of you and others as well.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:50 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the United States Arctic Research Plan

July 29, 1997

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the provisions of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984, as amended (15

U.S.C. 4108(a)), I transmit herewith the fifth

biennial revision (1998–2002) to the United States Arctic Research Plan.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,

July 29, 1997.

Remarks on the Terrorist Attack in Jerusalem, Israel, and an Exchange With Reporters

July 30, 1997

The President. Good morning. Today's bombing by terrorists in Jerusalem was a barbarous act. There is no excuse and there must be no tolerance for this kind of inhumanity. The slaughter was aimed directly at innocent Israelis. And make no mistake, it was also aimed at the majority of Israelis, Palestinians, and Arabs who want a lasting and just peace.

The only answer can and must be concrete steps by the Palestinian Authority to increase security operations and the strengthening of security cooperation between Palestinians and Israelis and a deepened determination by both Palestinians and Israelis to pursue peace. Only when a lasting and secure peace is achieved will the enemies of peace be defeated.

I have just spoken to Prime Minister Netanyahu. I told him the hearts and prayers of Americans are with him, the people of Israel, and the victims of the attack and their families.

I have nothing further to say about this except to say, again, we must not let the enemies of peace prevail. There must be increased security operations, increased security cooperation, and a continuing commitment that is deep into the peace process.

Q. Mr. President, what kind of security could have guarded against these two people who apparently were willing to kill themselves in order to do this damage?

The President. Well, I can't answer that, but I do know that there have been long periods when the security operations have succeeded. And if these people were part of larger networks, there may well be something else that can be done, but I don't obviously know the facts of this specific case. We can't say whether any action by the Palestinian Authority, for example, could have stopped this bombing, but we can say, from our observations, that there could be increased security activity and cooperation.

Q. Will you try to reach Chairman Arafat, and what publicly do you expect him to do in the wake of this explosion?

The President. Well, he's already talked to Prime Minister Netanyahu, and I would expect him to say in public what he said to him in private. And I would expect there to be increased security activity and increased security cooperation.

Q. Mr. President, how long will the Dennis Ross trip be postponed, and what specific new steps will he bring from the United States trying to revive the peace process?

The President. I think it's inappropriate to discuss the second part of your question at this moment, but the trip will be postponed for a period—an appropriate period of mourning.

Q. Mr. President, do you think that it's time for either you or the Secretary of State to become personally involved? There has been a lot of criticism that the United States hasn't been—

The President. First of all, I think the suggestion that we've not been personally involved is just false. But certainly—

Q. In a public way, though.

The President. Well, I believe, and I think that the record will bear this out—I believe—my personal involvement has been continuing and intense in this. But I know of no example in recent history where peace is made by third parties trying to be helpful making public statements alone. I believe the way I'm doing this is the most effective way. But you should not conclude for a moment that the White House has not been intimately and intensely and continuously involved in this peace process, particularly as it has gotten more difficult.

Thank you.